



Federal Communications Commission
Washington, D.C. 20554

MAY 3 1996

The Honorable Harris W. Fawell
U. S. House of Representatives
2159 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515-1313

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Dear Congressman Fawell:

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
OFFICE OF SECRETARY

Thank you for your letter of March 6, 1996, on behalf of your constituent, James Reid, regarding the Commission's decision to freeze acceptance of paging applications. Mr. Reid expresses concern that the suspension of processing of paging applications will adversely affect small businesses that provide paging services.

The Commission is currently conducting a rulemaking proceeding that proposes to transition from licensing paging frequencies on a transmitter-by-transmitter basis to a geographic licensing approach, using auctions to award licenses where there are mutually exclusive applications. In conjunction with that proceeding, the Commission initially froze processing of applications for paging frequencies. On April 23, 1996, the Commission released a First Report and Order in WT Docket 96-18 and PP Docket 93-253, which adopted interim measures governing the licensing of paging systems and partially lifted the interim freeze for incumbent paging licensees. For your convenience and information, enclosed is a copy of the Press Release concerning the First Report and Order, which includes a summary of the principal decisions made. Specifically, small and medium sized incumbent paging companies will be permitted to expand their service areas if the proposed new site is within 65 kilometers (40 miles) of an authorized and operating site. These interim rules will remain in effect until the Commission adopts final rules in the paging proceeding.

Thank you for your inquiry.

Sincerely,

David L. Furth
Chief, Commercial Wireless Division
Wireless Telecommunications Bureau

Enclosure

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HARRIS W. FAWELL
13TH DISTRICT, ILLINOIS

ECONOMIC AND
EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES
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ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENT

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-1313

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March 6, 1996

Ms. Lou Sizemore
Federal Communications Commission
Office of Congressional and Public Affairs
1919 M Street NW
Washington, D.C. 20554

Dear Ms. Sizemore:

I was recently contacted by one of my constituents, James Reid.

In order to reply to my constituent's concerns, I am respectfully referring the attached material to you for review, consideration, and comment. Please return my enclosure with your response. Any questions can be directed to Jamie Morvis in my Washington office.

Thank you for your attention to this matter and I look forward to hearing from you.

Very truly yours,



Harris W. Fawell
Member of Congress

HWF:jbm

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STENTOFON®

Communications, Inc.

March 4, 1996

Congressman Harris Fawell
2159 Rayburn HOB
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Mr. Fawell:

I am Central Regional Manager for Stentofon Communications with our local office in Willowbrook, Illinois. Through my recent negotiations with Chicago Board of Options Exchange (CBOE), I have become aware of an FCC "hold" on all private paging in the frequency ranges of 450-470Mhz. I have been working on designing a replacement communications system for the CBOE for over six months and we are currently ready to proceed with implementation.

Our company manufactures and distributes a Radio Paging System for private on-site use of industrial, healthcare, commercial, institutional and government facilities. We oppose the freeze of new paging frequencies for the following reasons:

- The freeze has effectively shut down our business of selling equipment and confused and confounded our customer base.
- Most of our on-site paging systems are used for life/safety purposes in hospitals, nursing homes, industrial plants and campus security. On-site paging performs functions that are not available from wide area common carrier companies.
- An extended freeze on all paging frequencies will do irreparable harm to our business and our customers' ability to provide emergency services. This will be a hardship to all those needing automatic wireless signaling.
- These ramifications will apply on a local level to the Stentofon Chicago office, as well as CBOE, who has been a customer for many years.

The FCC is considering an immediate lifting of some UHF frequencies in the range of 462-465 Mhz. I would appreciate any support you can lend to this cause, and I look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely;



James A. Reid
Stentofon Communications, Inc.

cc: Commercial Wireless Division
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